

theNatureJournal.ca - South Nation Conservation UNIONID SURVEY SITE VISIT DATA SHEET

Purpose: Unionid Inventory Sample: "Throughout North America native mussels (Unionidae) have long been declining, due to harvesting, sedimentation, and pollution. Introduced Zebra Mussels are eliminating entire species and faunas by smothering, displacement, and starvation." There's about 20 species of Unionids in eastern Ontario, and many of them are poorly known. The species, especially in the common genera, can be hard to identify, & the vast majority of individuals belong to the common species. Fortunately, dead shells can be picked up without harming populations & a big sample of shells is likely to contain a few of the uncommon species. The procedure is simple: print this datasheet on good (bond) paper in waterproof ink, gather a bagfull of shells from each site where you notice them, fill out this sheet, & send them to me. I'll identify the shells & send an account of the sample to you, along with identified shells that will help you learn the species in your river or watershed. -- **Fred Schueler, Bishops Mills Natural History Centre. RR#2, 30 Main Street, Bishops Mills, Ontario, K0G 1T0, (613)258-3107, <bckcdb@istar.ca>**

OBSERVERS:

Country: Prov/State: County: Twp:
Water body: Location:

Land Control: Crown Municipal rightofway Private. ELEV: m Reference: ground data road/topo map
 GPS WAYPT (datum): Co-ordinates: extent of site: m

DATE: Start time: Finish time: Time: Stand. Dayl. DIEL PERIOD: dawn
 early morning midday midafternoon cooling aft. dusk early night late night
WEATHER: Air temp: °C Time: Height: m Habitat:
SUN: obscured visible hazy bright. CLOUD COV: % fog. PRECIPITATION: none trace light moderate heavy
 intermittent steady rain snow WIND: N E S W N calm breeze strong storm gale steady gusting.
PAST 48 HOURS: Temperature: normal, unseasonably: warm cold. Moisture: normal, unseasonably: wet dry.

TOPOGRAPHY: hill ridge valley plain plateau floodplain dune beach. BEDROCK: limestone shale granite
 gniess not exposed BANK: bedrock boulders cobbles gravel sand silt till loam clay organic soil peat
 podzol. SOIL MOISTURE: frozen flooded wet Moist: field capacity <field cap. dry very dry.

TERRESTRIAL VEGETATION:

HUMAN IMPACT (estimated yrs since, c=current)-----
___ dam/weir, ___ logging, ___ tree plant., ___ herbicides, ___ tilled fields, ___ hay, ___ pasture, ___ mine/quarry, ___-
shoreline residence, ___ lawns, ___ dock/pier, ___ hardened shore, ___ urban area, ___ park, ___ road constr., ___-
hunting/angling ___-bathing/groomed beach ___-beaver dam destruct., ___-ditch ___-drainage/sewage outfall, ___,
imported fill/sand, ___ Zebra Mussels, other alien spp. OTHER & DETAILS::

WETLANDS absent-----
 ephemeral perm. natural artificial saline fresh tidal fringing beavers bog fen Swamp: shrub treed marsh
 alvar hummocks floating mat. DOMINANT PLANTS:

WATERBODY-----
 seasonal perm. natural canalized ditch excavated impounded beaver dam spring brook slow creek river
 fleuve pond lake beach pond storm sewer roadside pool/riffle meandering braided. BOTTOM: bedrock
 boulders cobbles shingle gravel sand silt clay muck peat detritus branches/logs marl.
UNDER ROCKS: clear gravel occluded silt clay detritus reducing Amphipod Isopods WATER LEVEL: flood
 bankfull normal low <low dry rising receding. QUALITY: clear cloudy yellow brown green algal scum
 muddy pollution anoxic H₂S pH: . MOVEMENT: still ripples waves trickle slow medium fast falling.
M/SEC: WIDTH: LENGTH: MAX.DEPH: DEPTHS SAMPLED:
DOMINANT PLANTS: submerged floating emergent

Water temp: °C Time: Depth: m Habitat

CAPTURE: drifted on shore shells on bottom predator shell pile under bridge dipnet SCUBA/snorkeling washing
out of bank . DETAILS:

SHORT HABITAT SUMMARY:

observations (continue on reverse side):

If possible, fill a grocery bag with shells, including some Zebra Mussels & other small drifted shells if present. Dry the shells, include this sheet with the double-bagged dried sample. Contact us about shipping method & send the sample, with \$15/sample curation fee, to **Bishops Mills Natural History Centre**, RR#2, 30 Main Street, Bishops Mills, Ontario, K0G 1T0, (613)258-3107 <bckcdb@istar.ca> <http://pinicola.ca> See <http://thenaturejournal.ca> for information on field notes- **fred schueler**.